WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for reducing the pumping duty cycle of a pump assembly associated with a pumping well comprising the steps of:

connecting an engine with a pump assembly through a pneumatically actuated clutch;

determining a selected event to actuate the clutch to connect the engine with the pump assembly; and

providing a pressurized gas on the occurrence of the selected event to actuate the clutch to connect the pump assembly with the engine to remove liquid from the gas well to maintain an inflow of hydrocarbons from a producing formation.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the selected event is selected from the events ~~comprising~~ consisting of a periodic time interval and a liquid level in the gas well.

3. A method according to Claim 1, where the pressurized gas is supplied from natural gas exiting the gas well.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein the selected event is selected from the events ~~comprising~~ consisting of a periodic time interval and a liquid level in the gas well.

5. A method according to Claim 1, where the selected event is determined by monitoring the liquid level in the gas well with time and determining a pumping cycle effective to maintain an inflow of hydrocarbons from the producing formation.

6. A method according to Claim 5, where the pressurized gas is supplied from natural gas exiting the gas well.

7. A method according to Claim 1, where the selected event is determined by directly monitoring the level of liquid in the well and actuating the pump assembly to maintain the liquid level between selected elevations to maintain an inflow of hydrocarbons from the producing formation while reducing the pump assembly duty cycle.

8. A method according to Claim 7, where the pressurized gas is supplied from natural gas exiting the well.

9. A pumping assembly for maintaining hydrocarbon production from a well, comprising:

a pumping assembly for pumping liquid from the gas well;

an engine for driving the pumping assembly;

a pneumatic clutch for connecting the engine with the pumping assembly; and

a control unit for actuating the pneumatic clutch when needed to pump liquid from the gas well to maintain hydrocarbon production from the well.

10. A pumping assembly according to Claim 9, wherein the control unit connects gas from the well to the pneumatic clutch for actuating the clutch.

11. A pumping assembly according to Claim 10, wherein the control unit is a timer for periodically actuating the clutch.

12. A pumping assembly according to Claim 9, further including means for monitoring a liquid level in the gas well and outputting a signal indicative of the liquid level.

13. A pumping assembly according to Claim 12, wherein the control unit receives the signal indicative of the liquid level and actuates the clutch to maintain the liquid level below a maximum height to maintain hydrocarbon production from the well.